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TODAY'S KU KLUX KLAN

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Today's Ku Klux Klan

## Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction.....	1
The Legacy of Violence.....	2
What the KKK Stands For.....	5
What the KKK Opposes.....	6
Attitudes Towards Blacks.....	9
Attitudes Towards Jews.....	9
Attitudes Towards Catholics.....	10
Attitudes Towards Immigrants.....	11
Membership Restrictions.....	11
Klan Youth Corps.....	12
Symbols of the KKK.....	13
Strength of the KKK.....	14
KKK in Pennsylvania.....	15
Klan Military Activity.....	16
Anti-Klan Law Enforcement.....	16
Community Response to the Klan.....	18
Footnotes.....	21



## Introduction

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission is the agency of state government that enforces the non-discrimination laws of the Commonwealth. The Commission also has the responsibility to respond to problems of "racial tension" and "to prepare a comprehensive educational program...to eliminate prejudice against and to further good will among all persons, without regard to race, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin, handicap or disability." In pursuit of this objective, the Commission coordinates and staffs the Inter-Agency Task Force on Civil Tension, which consists of state, local, and federal agencies, public and private, that monitor and respond to intergroup tension situations and train law enforcement officials in dealing with crimes of hatred. In implementation of these responsibilities, the Commission has prepared this analysis.

In 1988, the Ku Klux Klan was more openly active in Pennsylvania than during any year in recent history. Marches and rallies of the Klan complete with hoods and giant cross-burnings were to be found in very different locations of the Commonwealth from southwest Fayette County to central Carbon County to southeast Philadelphia and Delaware County. Stop-traffic recruitment and door-to-door canvassing marked their weekend activities. Hooded members joined openly in community campaigns to stop the sale of "pornographic" publications and to keep out unwanted religious groups. In the Keystone State the KKK held the first rally ever held in a national park.

What is this Ku Klux Klan? Is it different from the KKK of the deep South and the post Civil War period? Is the Klan in Pennsylvania a harmless group of malcontents, or are they disciples of racism and hate that is contrary to our democratic principles of respect and appreciation of the inherent value and equality of every human being? The purpose of this resource document is to answer these and other questions about today's Klan in Pennsylvania.

The main sources of the information about the Klan in this document are the official literature of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, recent issues of their newspaper The Klansman, special 1988 studies of the Ku Klux Klan by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and Klanwatch, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Center for Democratic Renewal's handbook on how to respond to hate groups.

It is the hope of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission that this analysis will contribute to a clearer understanding of today's Ku Klux Klan in Pennsylvania and of effective ways to deal with them.

## The Legacy of Violence

There are currently at least 16 Ku Klux Klan groups in the United States. The major focus in Pennsylvania is on the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, although the White Unity Party is also active in Pennsylvania. The Invisible Empire has the most members and activities of any of the extremist hate groups in the state.

From Invisible Empire recruitment literature, the Klan gives the appearance of being basically a political action organization. Its "Application for Membership" lists the following activities in which new members are urged to participate: "Call, write or wire my legislators," "visit elected officials," "participate in...voter registration drives."

The Invisible Empire also now claims to stand for compliance with the law. It says, "The Invisible Empire is a strictly law-abiding organization." Its members "will not conspire with other Klansmen any illegal, violent acts."<sup>1</sup> The Knights of the Klan have officially condemned any violence or "unlawful activity either publicly or privately" committed by a member of the Klan. Anyone who engages in violence will be tried by a Klan court and if found guilty dismissed from the Klan.<sup>2</sup>

These recent words claiming obedience to the law are clearly inconsistent with the Klan's position on racial separation and segregation. Their opposition to any and all forms of racial desegregation is tantamount to favoring continued unlawful discrimination because of race. Places of employment and housing, schools and colleges, and places of public accommodation cannot be racially segregated without practicing illegal discrimination. Specifically, Invisible Empire members are openly for keeping neighborhoods all White, which does not recognize federal, state, and local laws against discrimination in housing.

While decrying violence, the dress of Invisible Empire members has clearly suggested the imminence of conflict. The Klan entourage includes individuals dressed in battle fatigues, combat boots and openly displaying military weapons. The tactics seem to be to encourage confrontation and violence.

At the same time that the Invisible Empire claims to condemn any "violence" or "unlawful activity" by its members, it tells prospective members that "The Invisible Empire keeps alive the memory of the original Klansmen and the principles and traditions for which they risked their lives."<sup>3</sup> It is, therefore, relevant to review the highlights of the legacy of violence established by the KKK.

Immediately after the Civil War and during the period of Reconstruction the method of the Klan was to impose a reign of terror and violence in which by a system of "vigilante justice" even Black office holders were brutally beaten and hung.

During its first major period of activity, 1865 to 1915, the Klan methods of intimidating Blacks were thousands of hangings, shootings, tortures, whippings and mutilations. As a result, at least 2,000 Blacks were killed, wounded or injured in Louisiana, 75 were killed in Georgia,



and 109 in Alabama. In a single county in northern Florida, in a few months time, more than 150 Black men were murdered by the Klan, a rate of more than one killing a day. Schools and churches were also burned. Klan violence included tar-and-feather raids and the practice of using acid to brand the letters "KKK" on the foreheads of Blacks, Jews, and others. In 1892 alone, 69 Whites and 162 Blacks were lynched.

Between 1892 and 1925, the annual death rate for Blacks from lynching ranged from 50 to more than 100. The record of violence of the Klan between 1889 and 1941 has included 3,811 Black people lynched, for such "crimes" as threatening to sue a White man, attempting to register to vote, joining labor unions, being "disrespectful" to a White man, looking at a White woman, or for no reason at all. Klan activities in the early and mid-1920s included lynchings, shootings and whippings of Blacks, Jews, Catholics, Mexicans, various immigrants, and sometimes even Whites, Protestants, and females considered "immoral" or "traitors" to the White race.

Instead of disavowing this chapter of Klan history, the Invisible Empire reveres this part of their past. In their words, the "Klan saved the White south from the minorities." The KKK was the "savior of the white south, and thereby, the preserver of the purity of the white race for all of America."<sup>4</sup>

In Atlanta and other locations in the one year between October 1920 and October 1921 the Klan was responsible for "four killings, one mutilation, one branding with acid, forty-two floggings, twenty-seven tar-and-feather parties, five kidnappings, forty-three persons warned to leave town or otherwise threatened, fourteen communities threatened by warning posters, and sixteen parades by masked men with warning placards."<sup>5</sup> Klan deeds of horror included in Terrell, Texas, soaking a man in oil and burning him to death.

In 1957 the Klan abducted Judge Aaron, a Black handyman from Birmingham, Alabama, castrated him and poured hot turpentine into his wounds. Six Klan members were tried and convicted. In 1961, the Klan was clearly responsible for the vicious beating of Blacks and Whites who rode buses throughout the South to protest racial inequities.

Since 1945, as a result of the Klan, Blacks were prevented from voting in Georgia, Catholic and Jewish merchants were intimidated by cross burnings in California and Tennessee, and in Georgia and Florida Blacks were beaten or threatened with violence for engaging in union activities. In South Carolina, Klan members were charged with beating a 58-year-old Black man with blackjacks and sticks because he had been mixing with White people--by taking care of seven White children while their mother was in the hospital.

Beginning in 1956, dynamite became one of the Klan's weapons of terror and destruction. Between 1956 and 1963, some 138 bombings were reported, for many of which the Klan was believed to be responsible. In

response to the civil rights movement, the Klan was held responsible for 70 bombings in Georgia and Alabama, the arson of 30 Mississippi Black churches, and 10 racial killings in Alabama.

Undergirding this use of military type tactics has been a theology that includes a forecast of an international race war in which White Anglo-Saxons are to triumph.

In the period 1960 to 1965 Klansmen still employed terrorism and a form of guerilla race warfare consisting of assaults, killings, bombings, floggings and other acts of racial intimidation. The 36-day hearings of the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1966 revealed that Klansmen had been instructing their members to use explosives, incendiary devices, firearms, booby traps, and guerilla warfare at a special "school" in Georgia. The Acting Chairman of the Committee concluded that "The record is not a pretty one. It is a record of floggings, beatings, killings for no other reason than the color of their (victims') skin or the fact they disapprove of the politics and activities of the Klan." 6

During the 1960s there were the following acts of violence for which KKK members were convicted:

1. The slaying and bulldozer burial of civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner near Philadelphia, Mississippi. In 1964, seven of 18 KKK members charged were convicted by an all-White jury.
2. The murder of Lt. Col. Lemuel Penn, a Black educator from Washington, D.C., for which two were convicted in federal court.
3. The murder of Viola Gregg Liuzzo, a White civil rights worker in Alabama in 1965, for which three defendants were sentenced to ten years in prison.
4. The death of Vernon Dahmer, an NAACP official of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, as a result of burns he sustained in the firebombing of his home in 1966. An all-White Mississippi jury found a reputed Klansman guilty of the crime.

Recent activities of the Klan nationally have included intimidating civil rights activities, terrorizing interracial families, and attempting to bomb churches and synagogues. The 1980's violence by the Klan has included the lynching of a Black youth in 1981 and a Klan attack on civil rights marchers in Forsyth County, Georgia, in 1987.

During the period 1979 through 1985 more than 150 persons including 84 Klan members have been prosecuted under federal law for racially motivated violence. A major conviction of the Klan was a \$7,000,000 award in damages to the family of a Black teenager murdered by members of the United Klans of America in Mobile, Alabama, in 1981, granted by an all-White jury.



Summarizes the Southern Poverty Law Center, "In the hands of violent men, the Ku Klux Klan has been responsible for some of the worst bloodshed and terrorism in American history. Its weapons have ranged from the whip to dynamite, and down through the years its tactics have included hanging, acid branding, tar-and-feathering, torture, shooting, stabbing, clubbing, fire-branding, castration and other forms of mutilation." 7 This is the context of deeds in which to judge current KKK claims to being law-abiding and non-violent.

### What the KKK Stands For

As for the beliefs of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, it is a rich mixture of bigotry and racism wrapped in heavy layers of rhetoric and positions on issues designed to appeal to unsuspecting sympathizers.

The following is what the Invisible Empire claims they represent.

- "1. THE WHITE RACE: The irreplaceable hub of our Nation, our Christian Faith, and the High levels of Western Culture and technology.
- "2. AMERICA FIRST: First before any foreign or alien influence or interest.
- "3. THE CONSTITUTION: As originally written and intended. The finest system of government ever conceived by man.
- "4. FREE ENTERPRISE: Private property and ownership of business, but an end to high-finance exploitation.
- "5. POSITIVE CHRISTIANITY: The right of the American people to practice their faith - including prayers in schools."

Its self-proclaimed principles are: "Honor, Honesty, Duty, Courage, Brotherhood, and Patriotism." 8

The Invisible Empire claims to be religious and Christian. The Klansman includes such claims as "We are a White, Christian organization," and the Klan is for the "return to the true church of Jesus Christ!!!" 9

To the Christian claims the Invisible Empire adds "Western Christian Civilization" as their ideal. "... (T)he KKK is simply a Movement of White people for the highest standards of Western, Christian Civilization..." The Klan exists "as a living instrument for the ideals of Western Christian Civilization and the one element that makes them possible: the White Race." 10

The Klan's allegiance to the White race has been consistent from their beginnings to the present. They claim that the Greek word Kuklos from which the name Ku Klux Klan comes "means White Racial Brotherhood." "We of the Ku Klux Klan are unapologetically committed to the interests, ideas, and cultural values of the White Majority. We are determined to maintain and enrich our cultural and racial heritage." <sup>10</sup> The Klan is "for White Rights." <sup>11</sup> Their rally slogan is "White Power-White Pride-White Unity." <sup>12</sup>

In April 1867, the Klan sanctioned "supremacy of the White Race" as the fundamental creed of the KKK. <sup>13</sup> The Invisible Empire still stands for the doctrine of White supremacy. The Klan attitude is clearly racist, i.e., believing that White ethnic stock is superior to any other, and, therefore, Whites have the exclusive right to rule the country. The common objective of all Klan groups since the end of the Civil War has been the "maintenance of the supremacy of the White race." <sup>14</sup> Translated into a system of government, an editorial of The Klansman asserts "... (W)e of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, would implement a Democratic White Republic,..." <sup>15</sup> This is in obvious contrast to the "rule of the majority" which is the essence of democracy.

According to the Klan logic, it follows that Whites should be kept segregated from all others. The Invisible Empire's statement of purpose declares "Racial purity--we believe that all civilizations were the result of creativity of the White Race and that the fall of civilization in the past resulted because of the decline of the racial purity of the culture creating race--the WHITE RACE." <sup>16</sup> The Klansman clearly reflects this position, i.e., we are "for white separatism." Klan signs in East Yonkers, New York, read "Keep East Yonkers White." <sup>17</sup>

On the subject of law enforcement, Klan positions are for stronger laws against particular crimes and stronger law enforcement. The Klan is for capital punishment. Pennsylvania Grand Dragon Rick Fogel says that the Pennsylvania Klan supports the death penalty in all cases involving an aggravated criminal act and for drug dealers caught selling to minors or caught a second time. <sup>18</sup>

The Invisible Empire has added civil libertarian and "do good" dimensions to its image. "A Klansman Creed" featured in The Klansman includes, "A Klansman believes in the freedom of speech," "...in a free press..." and "...in the eternal separation of church and state." Klan members have helped house, clothe, and feed the needy, helped victims of abuse, and officially participated in locating missing children. <sup>19</sup>

#### What the KKK Opposes

From the major principles of the Invisible Empire flow a great number of policies, practices, and groups to which the Klan is opposed:

1. Interracial marriage

It's a sin

2. Desegregation and Racial Integration

"Busing for forced integration"<sup>20</sup>

3. Civil rights laws

Federal Civil Rights Act should be repealed.

4. Discrimination against Whites

By government

By civil rights laws

5. Affirmative action

"Reverse discrimination in jobs, promotions and scholarships"<sup>21</sup>

Employing Blacks with less qualifications than Whites

Quotas in employment and college admissions

Affirmative action is the cause of White unemployment.

6. Rule by the majority

Only Whites should vote.

7. Those for rights of Blacks

"Carpetbaggers" during Reconstruction

Civil rights workers in the South

8. Celebrations of Black history and contributions

Martin Luther King's birthday

Black History Month

9. Welfare

"People who want something for nothing"<sup>22</sup>

"High taxes for minority welfare"<sup>23</sup>

"Subsidies to able-bodied persons"<sup>24</sup>

Food stamp programs

10. Crime

"Illicit drug use"<sup>25</sup>

Youth drinking alcohol

Criminals out on probation or parole

The allegedly high percentage (85%) that Blacks and/or other minorities constitute of the committers of serious crimes

11. Gun control and registration

As an effort to disarm America and aid "the enemies who expect to destroy our country, from within or without..."<sup>26</sup>

12. Public schools

In which "God, Family, the Church and Patriotism are being diminished and removed from the curriculum," and in which secularism and anti-Christian humanism have invaded<sup>27</sup>

"The Jew-controlled educational systems in this country teach our White youth that it is acceptable to date, and mate with, Jews and Negroes;..."<sup>28</sup>

13. Disruptions in our schools

Consisting of "drugs, fights, extortion, fear, sexual harassment, rape, and murder," caused by Blacks<sup>29</sup>

14. Homosexuality and laws to protect "gay rights"

15. Abortion

16. Euthanasia

17. Pornography

18. Communism and socialism

19. Organizations

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Labor unions in general, especially the C.I.O. (Congress of Industrial Organizations)

Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith

Jewish Defense League



20. Pro-Black media

"Anti-White movies and TV programs"<sup>30</sup>

21. Non-Fundamentalists

"People who knock god or don't believe in Christ"<sup>31</sup>

Attitudes Towards Blacks

Regarding Blacks, the Invisible Empire of the Klan still holds to the same view as the Nazis of Hitler Germany, i.e., that members of the White Aryan race are superior to members of the Black or any other race or ethnic group. A reading of current issues of The Klansman finds statements that Blacks are "mongrels" and less likely to be gifted than Whites.<sup>32</sup> It follows that the Klan objects to celebrating or even recognizing the history and contributions of any Blacks including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

From its beginnings, the Klan has been opposed to the freeing of the slaves in the South and their exercise of any right to vote or political power. During its first period, 1865 to 1915, the Klan aimed to intimidate Blacks and destroy every vestige of Black political power in the southern states.

In their opposition to crime, the Klan particularly targets crime by Blacks. The "Application for Membership" in The Klansman is headed "Help Stop Black Crime."

What the Klan has most strongly opposed has been any kind of racial desegregation or integration, and especially interracial social activity and marriage. In recent years its specific target has been "forced integration" in schools resulting from school desegregation. According to The Klansman the Holy Bible "says that interracial marriage is a sin. Genesis 1:11."<sup>33</sup> In the words of the Invisible Empire, "The only way both races can develop their full potential and culture is through racial separation. The Klan will oppose integration and all its manifestations including...racial intermarriage..."<sup>34</sup> As stated in The Klansman "We just want the races to remain distinctive, separate and each with his own kind. Just as God ordained from the beginning of time."<sup>35</sup>

Attitudes Towards Jews

There is a religion or "theology" used by the Klan to justify their hatred of Jews. It is called Identity and is subscribed to by an estimated 2,000 to 5,000 followers. This theology derived from a 19th century "British Israelism" theory holds that the people of Britain or northern Europe (and therefore White) are the true descendants of the ten Lost Tribes of Israel and that Jews are literally the children of Satan.<sup>36</sup>



The written and spoken word of the Invisible Empire is full of hatred of Jews as expressed in a recent editorial of The Klansman.

"The Jew-owned White House and Congress, for decades, have been passing so-called 'Civil Rights Laws' that take from the White Majority and give to the Blacks and other mud-colored minorities. The evil, Jew-controlled U.S. Supreme Court, and most other judicial systems, continue to rule that Whites have no rights as they continue to uphold special privileges for Jews and other minorities, and mud-colored races. All three branches of the corrupt government in Washington, as well as in most state and local governments, are part of the Jew power structure controlled by Jew money power."<sup>37</sup>

A female Klan member expresses the Klan fear of Jews in The Klansman of November/December 1987.

"If left unchecked, the Jews will destroy our country, our culture, and our White, Christian civilization. The Jew political structure continues to flood our country with colored invaders from every non-white country in the world as so-called legal immigrants and illegal aliens."

A recorded telephone message by the Invisible Empire in Pensacola, Florida, included "The Jews have taken over America..." "They are pouring out your tax money to the niggers..." "The Christ-killing Jew has seized the reigns of government."<sup>38</sup>

An article in "The Fiery Cross" stated "Today, we see Jew big business...promoting race-mixing in every White Christian country."<sup>39</sup> Jews are accused of plotting to mongrelize the "White race." The media is referred to as the "Jewsmedia."<sup>40</sup> One of the symbols used by the Invisible Empire reads "Communism is Jewish" with the Russian hammer and sickle pictured inside the Star of David.<sup>41</sup> In The Klansman it is asserted that Jews should be excluded from the United States for all time because they will dominate the country and change our form of government.<sup>42</sup>

It is not surprising that some of the leaders of the Klan came from neo-Nazi groups, including David Duke, the founder of the Knights of the KKK in 1975. The common position between the Klan and neo-Nazis is their hatred of Blacks and Jews and fanatical obsession with White Aryan supremacy.

### Attitudes Towards Catholics

Klan attitudes and activities towards Catholics have undergone some changes. In its earlier days (prior to 1945) Klan leadership said outright, "We exclude Catholics because they owe allegiance to an institution that is foreign to the Government of the United States."<sup>43</sup> During the second major period of Klan activity, 1915 to 1945, the Klan was responsible for boycotting businesses owned by Catholics as well as

Jews, and campaigning to oust Catholic teachers from the public schools and Catholics from elective office. During these years, the Klan carried on a nationwide campaign to prevent Governor Alfred E. Smith of New York, a Roman Catholic, from receiving the Democratic presidential nomination on the grounds that he was a puppet of the Vatican. During the 1930s the Klan accused Catholics of conspiring to capture the government of the United States and "destroy America." During this same period, the KKK pillaged Catholic churches. Even following World War II, crosses were burned to intimidate Catholic as well as Jewish merchants in Tennessee and California.

The current Imperial Wizard, or national leader, of the Invisible Empire KKK, is a Roman Catholic. The Invisible Empire's recruitment literature currently states that "Catholics as well as Protestants who believe sincerely in our doctrines are eligible for membership."<sup>44</sup> Their rally in Valley Forge National Park on August 7, 1988, openly attempted to recruit "White Catholics."<sup>45</sup>

### Attitudes Towards Immigrants

Klan opposition to immigration and immigrants has been consistent throughout their history. The Klan was much opposed to the immigration of some 23,000,000 people from Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Hungary, and Russia to the United States around 1887. The Klan claims to have been responsible for the passage of the strict anti-immigration laws in the 1920s.

Of the variety of immigrants, the ones specifically targeted now by the Invisible Empire are those of color, specifically Hispanics, Asiatics, Indians, Africans and Arabs. As recently as 1979, a Klan publication stated, "These illegal aliens will take even more jobs away from Americans and create more welfare for the working American to support!...and unless our government returns to sane politics regarding illegal aliens America will soon be overrun with these coloreds from the Caribbean and Mexico."<sup>46</sup> The Klan's antagonism toward "foreigners," whether legal or illegal immigrants, is illustrated in the conflicts in Texas between fishermen from the local area and Vietnamese immigrants in which Klansmen harassed the Vietnamese fishermen.

### Membership Restrictions

The "Application for Membership" from the national Office of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, in Connecticut indicates the following requirements:

"I am a White person at least 18 years of age and I believe in the Christian faith."

"I am a White person of Non-Jewish ancestry."

"I swear an unqualified allegiance: First to the White Race." 47

Invisible Empire literature makes clear that no one is allowed to be a member--

"Who can not swear an unqualified allegiance to the Constitution of the United States"

"Who can not pledge themselves to the protection, preservation and advancement of the White Race" 48

An individual may join the Klan either as a member-at-large or as a member of a Klavern. Members may keep their membership as secret or open as they desire. 49

### Klan Youth Corps

Currently, White supremacist organizations including the Klan have targeted youth and prison inmates as their most likely supporters, capitalizing on their feelings of alienation and frustration. In the 1970s, Klan Youth Corps were established including a camp in Alabama where youth could learn weapons training together with racist ideology. According to the October 1985 issue of The Klansman, the "five-point program" of the Klan Youth Corps is:

- "1) Organize White Youth in every school along racial lines.
- "2) (Adopt a) 'Get tough' policy with arrogant non-Whites.
- "3) Force school administrators to drop their appeasement policy to minorities by threatening public exposure followed by possible boycotts.
- "4) Implement a 'tit for tat' policy by demanding equal rights for White students. If minorities have a Minority Cultural Class, Whites should have a White Cultural Class (etc...).
- "5) Segregation of classes, followed by eventual segregation of schools." 50

This same article asserted that the Klan Youth Corps "...recognizes that integration has been responsible for much of the racial strife in America, and most of the strife in our schools. Furthermore, the Klan Youth Corps is aware that integration is a prelude to miscegenation (race-mixing) which will lead to the down breeding of the White Race." The Invisible Empire's Youth Corps has a "plan of action" "to build racial pride through a program of white racial courses." 51

### Symbols of the KKK

There are certain symbols common to Klan dress and ceremonies that continue to have explicit meaning and purpose. The Invisible Empire claims that the face-covering hood is "a symbol of humility, of anonymity in doing good works," and that it means "dedication to our God, our nation, our race and our movement."<sup>52</sup> "Throughout history the Fiery Cross has represented the rebirth of the truth; the coming of the Kingdom of God; the ideals of Christian civilization," writes the KKK, Invisible Empire.<sup>53</sup> The blood drop that is the Klan symbol supposedly represents the "Blood of Christ who died for our sins."<sup>54</sup>

The historic fact, however, is that the purpose and effect of both the hoods and burning crosses has been to intimidate and instill fear in others. Hoods were also used to hide the identities of the perpetrators of hate crimes.

Bumper stickers of the Invisible Empire indicate in headline style their current philosophy and positions. As of their September/October 1988 issue of The Klansman, their bumper stickers read as follows:

"RACIAL PURITY IS AMERICA'S SECURITY"

"SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE"

"CLEAN UP OUR X-RATED SCHOOLS"

"WANT TO TAKE MY GUN? COME AND GET IT!"

"SECRET MEMBER KU KLUX KLAN"

"AMERICA FIRST"

"NEVER ACCEPT BUSING"

They also make available a toilet sign reading "White Only."

Similarly, leaflets available from the Invisible Empire also give clues to their views, detailed elsewhere in this report. As of the September/October 1988 issue of The Klansman, the leaflets included:

"WHITE PEOPLE HAVE RIGHTS

No one thinks so, we do"

"RACE SCIENTISTS SPEAK OUT

Racial differences"

"THE ILLEGAL ALIEN PROBLEM

Deals with the subject in depth"

"ROOTS EXPOSED. A total view of

Alex Haley's mythology of slavery"



"FUSION OF THE RACES  
Gives racial laws of the Holy Bible

"THE KOSHER FOOD SWINDLE"

"WHAT FAMOUS AMERICANS SAY ABOUT JEWISH POWER"

"LINCOLN'S PROGRAM FOR SENDING  
THE NEGROES BACK TO AMERICA"

"WAS THERE REALLY A HOLOCAUST?  
The most debated question of our time"

### Strength of the KKK

The numerical strength of the Ku Klux Klans in the nation has vacillated greatly since the organization of the first Klan in 1865. (See attached "Estimated Klan Membership: 1871-1988" by the Southern Poverty Law Center.)

KKK membership first peaked in 1871 with numbers of 550,000. By 1920, the Klan had dwindled to less than 1% of its former size, i.e., 5,000 members. In the next five years, however, as the Great Depression approached, KKK ranks increased to an all-time high of 5 million. During this period Klansmen were elected as local sheriffs, members of police departments, judges, state legislators, governors in three states, and members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

Just before World War II the KKK had dwindled to less than 10,000 members. By the early 1950s, membership of the Klan was at its lowest level since 1915.

Then came the Civil Rights Movement. In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court put an end to laws requiring racial segregation in public schools and required desegregation "with all deliberate speed." The court similarly ruled regarding segregation in colleges. Whites witnessed federal armed forces being ordered by the President to enforce court orders to desegregate schools and colleges.

The successful bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, demonstrated the economic power of the Black community under the charismatic leadership of a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Whites saw Blacks and Whites together in sit-ins, Freedom Rides, and boycotts, committed to nonviolent direct action and a willingness to suffer injury and jail, bringing an end to segregation in public transportation and public accommodations.

Whites saw Congress pass Civil Rights Acts in 1957, 1960, 1964, 1965, 1968 and 1972 assuring rights to non-segregated education, nondiscrimination in public accommodations, voting without discrimination, and fair employment and housing practices. In 1964 the U.S. Constitution



itself was amended to abolish the poll tax, the most common method of keeping Blacks from voting. Black riots began in some 100 cities out of which emerged the "Black Power" movement rejecting nonviolence.

It is not surprising that a "White backlash" resulted led by Governors Wallace, Faubus and Barnett, on which the Ku Klux Klan capitalized in recruiting new members. KKK ranks swelled to a post-War peak of 55,000 in 1967.

Seven years later the Klan reached its all-time low of 1,500. The "new Klan" was not sufficiently strong to carry any Klan candidate into public office. For the past several years there has not been a single elected public official in the nation who is a publicly avowed KKK member. As of 1988, Klanwatch estimates total membership in all Klans at 5,000 with an estimated 17,000 members of other racist organizations.

The number of Klan members is not the only gauge of their influence in the United States. Comments the Southern Poverty Law Center, "One of the major lessons of Klan history has been that numbers do not tell the story: the surges and declines in Klan membership rolls are no measure of racism in America, and no indication of how frequently that racism is expressed in crimes and violence."<sup>55</sup> The 1980s have seen the radicalization of the Klan movement from traditional public marches and recruitment rallies to more militant underground revolutionary strategy.

According to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), in 1979 the number of non-Klan sympathizers who would attend rallies, subscribe to Klan literature and purchase Klan paraphernalia numbered between 75,000 and 100,000. In 1988, according to the ADL, there were at least 67 different hate groups active in the United States and 50 regular racist and anti-Semitic publications. Although the numbers in organized White supremacist groups have declined, the severity and frequency of ethnic intimidation crimes has not diminished. In 1987, the U.S. Department of Justice prosecuted 28 defendants in some 16 racial violence cases, the most in a single year since 1976. In Pennsylvania, a significant number of ethnic intimidation incidents have involved the use of Klan "copycat" tactics, such as "KKK" graffiti and the burning of crosses.

### KKK in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania had Klan activity and chapters as early as 1928. In the 1920s, the peak of Klan membership nationally, Pennsylvania had 125,000 members, of which 50,000 were in the Philadelphia area.<sup>56</sup> Currently, there are two Klan organizations active in the state. One is the White Unity Party, headed by Albert P. Lentz in York County. Its occasional rallies are advertised with Klan symbols, including "White Power, White Pride, White Unity," and its cross-burnings are restricted to the "White Public Only."

At present, the major Klan group in the Commonwealth is the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan headquartered in Shelton, Connecticut. Born in 1975, it is the first Klan with a national office in the north.

Allegedly the Invisible Empire is the largest of all Klan groups in the United States and is the only Klan with substantial membership outside of the South. It has Klaverns in the following states: Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. As of 1988, the Invisible Empire has between 1,500 and 2,000 members nationally. The Anti-Defamation League estimates their membership in Pennsylvania at 75 to 100.

The current leader of the Invisible Empire is James W. Farrands, a 52-year-old tool and die maker and former scoutmaster from Shelton, Connecticut. He is the first northerner in the history of the Klan to hold the title of Imperial Wizard and is the Klan's first Catholic. Elected in 1986, he has appointed Grand Dragons for the first time in several states including Pennsylvania. The Grand Dragon, Realm of Pennsylvania, is Rick L. Fogel, a former police officer.

### Klan Military Activity

The Identity theology of the Klan includes a forecast of the future that has caused some Klans to engage in paramilitary training. The Identity movement believes that the day is coming when not only Jews but all minorities will be defeated in a worldwide race war that will leave only the "true Israelites" (White Anglo-Saxons) surviving. Whites are, therefore, urged to arm themselves and stockpile weapons and food.

During the late '70s, considering themselves to be the "White Christian Army," some Klans were instructed in guerilla warfare and formed paramilitary arms. Some Klansmen have begun to appear at Klan rallies and marches in camouflage uniforms and army boots. Legislation and court decisions finally resulted in stopping the paramilitary training, but the symbols of an expected race war still persist. At Klan rallies, even in Pennsylvania, participants appear dressed in combat fatigues and carrying military weapons.

### Anti-Klan Law Enforcement

Their record of lawlessness and violence notwithstanding, the Constitution of the United States accords the Klan like any other group certain civil liberties. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution regarding freedom of speech prevents the government from suppressing speech because it is offensive to some members of the audience. (*Street v. New York* 394 U.S. 576) (1969). The Constitutional right of freedom of association prevents stopping a Klan rally from being held on private property of anyone wishing to allow such a gathering.<sup>57</sup> The Southern Poverty Law Center summarizes the rights of the Klan. "... (T)he rights of Klan members are just as valuable as the rights of their enemies. They

have the right to march in robes or military uniforms through the streets of your town shouting 'White Power!' They have the right to stand on the sidelines of a civil rights march screaming 'Nigger Go Home!' They have the right to pass out obscenely racist literature, hold cross burning ceremonies, and publicly express their twisted views for whatever media will report them." The limit to such free speech is when it incites others to violence. 58

At the same time that their civil liberties are recognized, various federal and state laws have been enacted which curtail the behavior of members of Klan and other hate groups. In 1871, Congress passed a strong anti-Klan law in which night riding and the wearing of masks was prohibited. After World War II, state and local governments passed laws against cross burnings and masks. Anti-mask and anti-cross burning ordinances were adopted by key cities in southern states. In 1951, Georgia passed a law which prohibited the "wearing of a mask or hood so as to conceal the identity of the wearer" and banned the burning of crosses and "exhibitions designed to intimidate others." The city of Erie, Pennsylvania, has passed and defended against court challenge an ordinance that restricts the wearing of masks or hoods in a public place.

Eighteen states have enacted Anti-Defamation of B'nai B'rith (ADL) model legislation providing criminal penalties for those convicted of paramilitary or weapons training to promote civil disorder. As a result, in the opinion of ADL, paramilitary training by hate groups has been reduced to virtually zero as of 1987. The following states have enacted such laws: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia and West Virginia.

At the same time that the Klan is exercising its rights, there is an important law enforcement response to be made. Every law enforcement agency should take a clear public stand against the KKK and hate/violence. The Southern Poverty Law Center suggests more standard responses and results:

"But today, most police deal with the Klan and other hate groups in much the same way they deal with street gangs or organized crime rings: through diligent intelligence gathering, regular information sharing, and aggressive enforcement of the appropriate laws. Good police work in the 1980s led to an unprecedented number of criminal indictments against members of organized hate groups. Between 1979 and 1985, for instance, the U.S. Justice Department prosecuted at least 84 Klan members for racially motivated violence. In addition, civil suits against Klansmen for illegal activities resulted in judgments against entire Klan organizations." 59

A most recent example of effective law enforcement against the Klan was the successful suit by the Southern Poverty Law Center against two Klan organizations including the Invisible Empire. A jury fined the Klan groups and 11 individuals nearly \$1 million for their exhorting bystanders



to throw rocks and bottles at civil rights activists who marched in Forsythe County, Georgia, in January 1987 to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Invisible Empire was assessed \$400,000 in punitive damages.<sup>60</sup>

The Southern Poverty Law Center summarizes legislation that has proven effective against the Klan.

1. Bans on wearing hoods or masks in public, unless for specific holidays like Halloween.
2. Prohibitions against carrying weapons of any kind in marches or parades.
3. Laws against burning crosses for the purpose of intimidation.
4. Prohibitions of all paramilitary training and activities by persons other than law enforcement officials.
5. Outlawing weapons training to be used in the furtherance of civil disorder.
6. Regulations on public marches such as restricting marchers to a predetermined route.<sup>61</sup>

#### Community Response to the Klan

From the experiences of more than 500 communities in responding to hate/violence activity, the following responses to the Klan are suggested.<sup>62</sup>

The greatest temptation is to physically confront Klansmen and to attempt to stop their activities. Experience with this response, however, has shown that this results in physical attacks and arrests of anti-Klan protestors on charges of assault. An effective response to the Klan requires a commitment to non-violence in all anti-Klan activities.

The strongest ally of the KKK is the "conspiracy of silence." As stated by Bishop Duncan M. Gray, Jr. of the Episcopal Diocese in Mississippi "... (T)he real power of the Klan has never rested in its numbers, but rather in the silent support, real or imagined, that it is presumed to have had in any particular community... We cannot--we must not--remain silent, lest our silence somehow be interpreted by the Klan, or by others, as acquiescence or support."<sup>63</sup>

Organizationally the response to a Klan activity should be a coalition of all races and nationalities, religious denominations and individual churches, labor unions, business groups, civil rights groups, and educators. "Community harmony" rallies, worship services or prayer

vigils can be organized and co-sponsored as counter-Klan activities. "Model" resolutions against the Klan can be drafted and endorsements secured from various community groups. Resolutions condemning bigotry and hatred passed by city, borough and township councils and county commissioners can be helpful. Mayors can issue effective anti-Klan statements. Church groups can attack the Klan's misinterpretation of the Bible and the Christian religion. Advertisements condemning the Klan can be taken out in newspapers. Letters-to-the-editor in the local newspaper condemning the Klan are always useful.

Large public forums and debates with Klansmen are the least cost-effective and can be disastrous. More effective education consists of smaller educational meetings with specific target groups such as educators, law enforcement officials, journalists, and religious groups. Any organization opposed to the Klan can have profitable education meetings to inform their members about the Klan. The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith\* can be called upon to provide speakers about the Klan itself, and to offer additional suggestions as to productive methods of opposing the Klan.

Concludes the Southern Poverty Law Center,

"The greatest allies hate groups have in a community are fear and silence, and the greatest enemy is simple, unequivocal, public rejection. Recent history has shown it doesn't take an army to drive the Klan out of town - a public statement of opposition from city officials, level-headed citizens carrying unmistakable messages of rejection, and a conspicuous absence of public participation at the Klan event is enough to discourage Klan recruiting in most towns." 64

Attach.

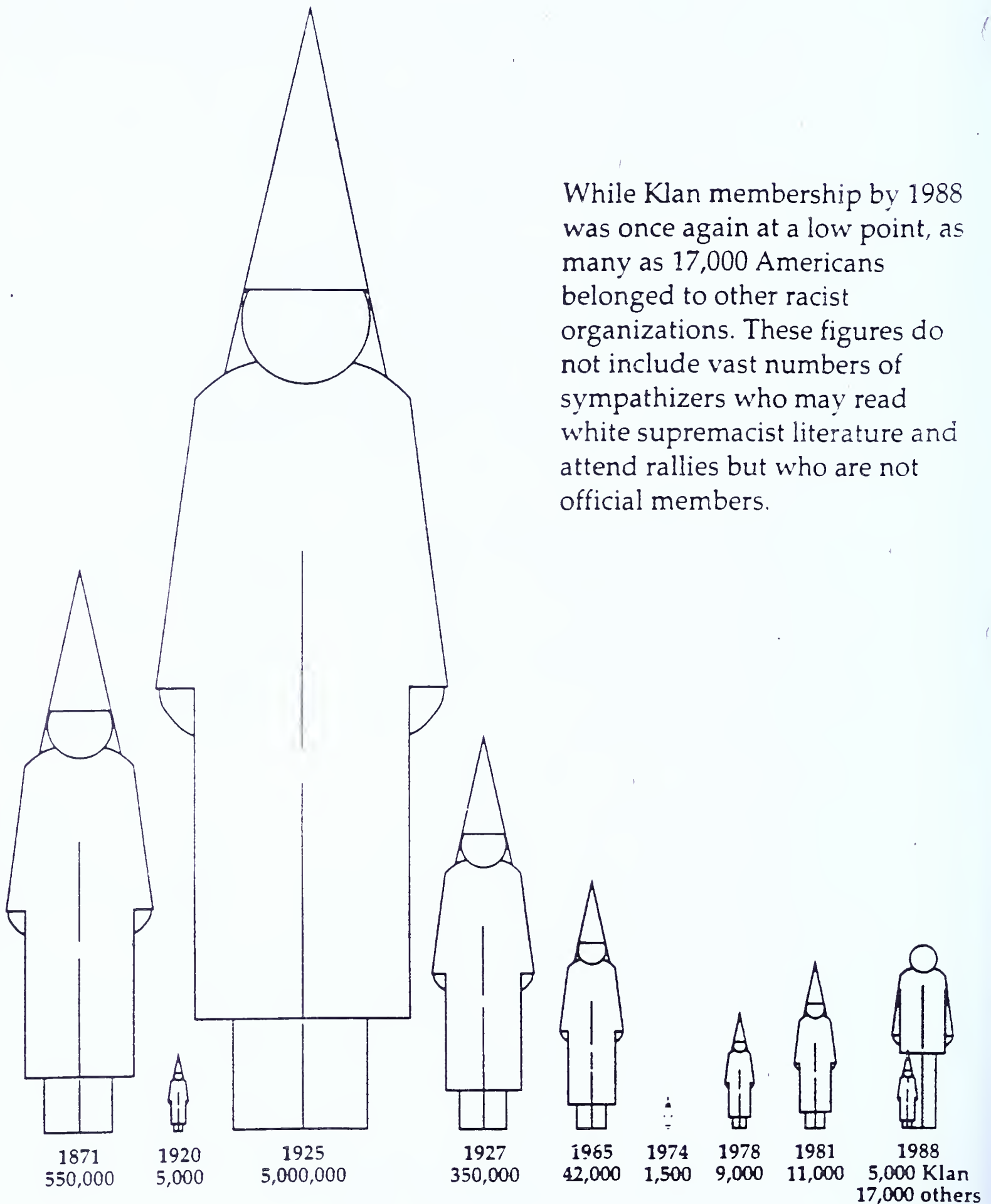
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\*For speakers on the Klan, phone the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, Division of Education and Community Services (717-783-8886), or the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (in Philadelphia 215-735-4167, or in Pittsburgh 412-471-1050).



# Estimated Klan Membership: 1871 — 1988

While Klan membership by 1988 was once again at a low point, as many as 17,000 Americans belonged to other racist organizations. These figures do not include vast numbers of sympathizers who may read white supremacist literature and attend rallies but who are not official members.



Source: Klanwatch, Southern Poverty Law Center, The Ku Klux Klan, A History of Racism and Violence, 1988, p. 49

### Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, "An Introduction to the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan" (Cited henceforth as "An Introduction to the Invisible Empire")
- <sup>2</sup> Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Civil Rights Division, Hate Groups in America, A Record of Bigotry and Violence, 1988, p. 19 (Cited henceforth as "Hate Groups in America")
- <sup>3</sup> "An Introduction to the Invisible Empire"
- <sup>4</sup> "An Introduction to the Invisible Empire"
- <sup>5</sup> "Hate Groups in America," p. 77
- <sup>6</sup> "Hate Groups in America," p. 84
- <sup>7</sup> Klanwatch, Southern Poverty Law Center, "The Ku Klux Klan, A History of Racism and Violence", 1988, p. 24 (Cited henceforth as "The Ku Klux Klan")
- <sup>8</sup> "An Introduction to the Invisible Empire"
- <sup>9</sup> The Klansman, May/June 1988
- <sup>10</sup> "An Introduction to the Invisible Empire"
- <sup>11</sup> The Klansman, May/June 1988
- <sup>12</sup> "White Patriots Rally, KKK Ceremony" at Ephrata, PA, 10/3/87 (flyer) (Cited henceforth as "White Patriots Rally")
- <sup>13</sup> "Hate Groups in America," p. 75
- <sup>14</sup> "Hate Groups in America," p. 75
- <sup>15</sup> The Klansman, September/October 1988
- <sup>16</sup> "Hate Groups in America," pp. 17-18
- <sup>17</sup> The Klansman, May/June 1988

- 18 George Taylor, Lehigh Valley Times-News, "Ex-Altoonan Near Top of Klan," in Altoona Mirror, July 17, 1988 (Cited henceforth as "Ex-Altoonan Near Top of Klan")
- 19 The Klansman, September/October 1988
- 20 "An Introduction to the Invisible Empire"
- 21 "An Introduction to the Invisible Empire"
- 22 The Klansman, Nov/Dec 1987
- 23 "An Introduction to the Invisible Empire"
- 24 "Ex-Altoonan Near Top of Klan"
- 25 The Klansman, Nov/Dec 1987
- 26 The Klansman, May/June 1988
- 27 The Klansman, May/June 1988
- 28 The Klansman, Nov/Dec 1987
- 29 Nathan Bedford Forrest Klavern, Folcroft, PA, "The War on Drugs, How Safe Are Our Schools, The High Cost of Energy, Does Your Neighbor Need You?"
- 30 The Klansman, Nov/Dec 1987
- 31 Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, "Are you Tired of..."
- 32 The Klansman, May/June 1988, Nov/Dec 1987
- 33 The Klansman, Nov/Dec 1987
- 34 "An Introduction to the Invisible Empire"
- 35 The Klansman, Sept/Oct 1988

36. "The Ku Klux Klan," p. 48
37. The Klansman, Nov/Dec 1987
38. "Hate Groups in America," p. 18
39. "Hate Groups in America," p. 19
40. The Klansman, May/June 1988
41. "White Patriots Rally"
42. The Klansman, Nov/Dec 1987
43. "Hate Groups in America," p. 77
44. "An Introduction to the Invisible Empire"
45. Philadelphia Daily News, "Klan Segregated From Foes at Valley Forge," August 8, 1988
46. "Hate Groups in America," p. 19
47. Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, "Application for Membership"
48. "An Introduction to the Invisible Empire"
49. Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, "White People, If You Want to Regain Your Rights, Then You Need..."
50. "Hate Groups in America," p. 21
51. "Hate Groups in America," p. 21
52. "An Introduction to the Invisible Empire"
53. Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, "Introduction to the Klan" from The Klansman

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55. "The Ku Klux Klan," p. 57
56. Barry Morrison, Philadelphia Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Remarks to meeting of Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia, October 26, 1988
57. The Center for Democratic Renewal, When Hate Groups Come To Town, 1986, pp. 54-55 (Cited henceforth as "When Hate Groups Come to Town")
58. "The Ku Klux Klan," p. 33
59. "The Ku Klux Klan," p. 46
60. Philadelphia Inquirer, "Klan Ordered to Pay Activists \$1 Million," October 26, 1988
61. "The Ku Klux Klan," p. 33
62. "When Hate Groups Come To Town"
63. "When Hate Groups Come To Town," p. 25
64. "The Ku Klux Klan," p. 29